



Aerospace Medicine

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

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This instruction implements Air Force Instruction 90-821, *Hazard Communication*. It describes the Air Force Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) Program that implements requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200, *Hazard Communication*. It establishes procedures for the base Hazard Communication Program and applies to all personnel assigned to this base.

1. General. This instruction provides the requirements for an effective Air Force HAZCOM Program for those work area/shop(s) that have workers that handle or use hazardous chemicals. AFI 90-821 revises AFOSH Standard 161-21, *Hazard Communication*. Changes include placing primary responsibility for hazard communication (HAZCOM) training and worker awareness on the work area/shop supervisor, and clarification of supporting training and technical consultation roles.

2. Responsibilities.

2.1. Environmental Health.

2.1.1. Environmental Health is the point of contact for occupational health education, and provides consultation on training to work area/shop supervisors on the Air Force (AF) HAZCOM Program. While Primary responsibility for performing HAZCOM training rests with the work area/shop supervisor, Public Health will make the appropriate training available to work area/shop supervisors.

2.1.2. Provide technical expertise to work area/shops on potential health hazards, training requirements, and regulatory requirements (OSHA expanded standards) associated with hazardous chemicals.

2.1.3. Assist Commanders and work area/shop supervisors by providing specific implementation/compliance technical guidance on the AF HAZCOM program (AFI 90-821, paragraph 1.6.2.2.3.).

- 2.1.4. Functions as the Office of Primary Responsibility for installation Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) management (AFI 90-821, paragraph 1.6.2.2.4).
- 2.1.5. Advise installation work area/shops and personnel on labeling of hazardous chemical container.
- 2.1.6. Review and approve work AF IMT 3952, **Chemical Hazardous Material Request/Authorization** (AFI 90-821, paragraph 1.6.2.2.7).
- 2.1.7. Provide HAZCOM advice to the contracting office upon request.

2.2. Squadron Commanders and Supervisors.

- 2.2.1. Squadron Commanders will provide a safe and healthy work environment and ensure all assigned personnel are familiar with the hazards within the work area/shop, understand appropriate ways to manage risk associated with hazardous materials in the work area/shop, and provide the resources to maintain the effective HAZCOM program within work area/shops under their control. Squadron Commanders, or their designated representatives, shall approve written work area/shop-specific training prior to implementation in the work area/shop, and know the location of MSDSs and training materials.
- 2.2.2. Work Area/Shop Supervisors should provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment, and whenever a new physical or health hazard that employees have not been previously trained about is introduced into their work area. Information and training may be designed to cover categories of hazards (such as flammability or carcinogenicity) or specific chemicals. Chemical-specific information must always be available through labels and material safety data sheets. Refer to AFI 90-821, paragraph 1.8 and OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200, appendix E for more specific instructions and guidance.

3. Procedures

3.1. Training.

- 3.1.1. Supervisors and employees who handle, use, or are potentially exposed to hazardous materials in the course of official Air Force duties must be provided training on the AF HAZCOM program, including training to address work area/shop specific hazards prior to the use of hazardous chemicals. The work area/shop supervisor is responsible for ensuring all workers are properly trained on all the chemical hazards in their work area/shop (AF HAZCOM program). See AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.7 for more specific instructions and guidance.

3.2. MSDSs.

- 3.2.1. The MSDS shall be prepared to be consistent with 29 CFR 1910.1200(g) requirements and AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.5.
- 3.2.2. A MSDS must be immediately accessible (in either paper or electronic format) for every item on the work area/shop-specific hazardous chemical inventory. The MSDS on file must match the manufacturer and part number/trade name of the material on-hand. In addition, the MSDS preparation date must be consistent with the date/lot of any material on-hand. If a new MSDS is received, but the old material is still on-hand, the MSDS, which matched the old material, must be retained.

3.2.3. Access to MSDSs in the work area/shops must follow AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.5 Section 2.5.3.

3.3. Labels.

3.3.1. Labeling of hazardous chemical containers will be done according to 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), and Department of Defense Instruction (DoD) 6050.5-H, *Department of Defense Hazardous Chemical Warning Labeling System*.

3.3.2. It is the responsibility of chemical manufacturers, importers and commercial distributors to label containers of hazardous chemicals according to OSHA's federal HAZCOM standard. Hazardous Material Pharmacies (HAZMARTs) will ensure incoming containers are properly labeled according to AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.6.2.

3.3.3. Reference AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.6.3. for materials that are exempted from HAZCOM labeling requirements.

3.3.4. Supervisors must adhere to AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.6.4.

3.3.5. HAZMARTs may affix other labels to containers for locally determined purposes. See AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.6.5. for specific guidance.

3.4. Chemical Inventory requirements.

3.4.1. The written work area/shop hazard communication program must include a list of the hazardous chemicals known to be present in a work area/shop. The identity that is used on the MSDS must be cross referenced to the inventory (AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.8).

3.4.2. The inventory is a fundamental block for a HAZCOM program and the nature of the chemicals on the inventory in a work area/shop will determine the scope of the hazard communication program and training requirements appropriate for that work area/shop.

3.5. Non-Routine Tasks Involving Hazardous Materials.

3.5.1. Non Routine tasks are:

3.5.1.1. Those tasks included within a work area/shop's normal activities but performed infrequently.

3.5.1.2. Temporary duties outside an individual's normal Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) or job series.

3.5.2. Supervisors will ensure work area/shop operating instructions (OI), specific task lists, and Job Safety Analyses (JSAs) thoroughly describe non-routine tasks, associated hazards, and controls, for infrequent tasks. See AFI 90-821 Paragraph 2.9 section 2.9.2. for further instruction and guidance.

3.5.3. When workers temporarily perform duties outside their normal jobs, the supervisor of the gaining activity will ensure these workers receive the training listed in AFI 90-821, paragraph 2.9.3.

3.6. Hazard Determination.

3.6.1. The Air Force will rely on the hazard determination of the supplier or manufacturer of purchased chemicals. For Air Force produced chemicals, the Air Force activity controlling the formulation will make the hazard determination and produce an MSDS in accordance with 29 CFR

1910.1200. The Air Force activity producing the chemical will include hazard determination procedures in their written program, and ensure their personnel are trained on the hazards. If the chemical is transferred to any other organizations, the producing organizations will provide a MSDS with the shipment.

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